United Nations E/C.20/2018/15

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 May 2018

Original: English

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Eighth session
New York, 1–3 August 2018
Item 14 of the provisional agenda*
Marine geospatial information

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on marine geospatial information, which will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/8th-Session/). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress of the working group in its efforts to address the importance of reliable, timely and fit-for-purpose marine geospatial information to support the administration, management and governance of oceans, seas and inland waters.

Summary of the report

At its seventh session, held in New York from 2 to 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 7/111, in which it endorsed the terms of reference and establishment of the working group on marine geospatial information, noting the need for appropriate technical expertise and broad geographical representation. Also in decision 7/111, the Committee noted that, given the complexity and broad scope of marine geospatial information, it was critical to ensure that the working group remained focused, within its scope, and not political in nature, and the Committee encouraged the working group to address issues related to the availability, accessibility and application of marine geospatial information, and linkages to national spatial data infrastructure.

In the report, the working group provides information on the progress made towards establishing its modalities, developing a workplan for the biennium 2018-2019 and focusing on the objectives and functions set out in its terms of reference. The working group reports on its graduated approach to managing and promoting the value of marine geospatial information, including the preparation of a communications plan, the gathering of information in order to better understand existing capacity development initiatives being taken by international organizations, including the International Hydrographic Organization, and the application of use-case approaches to understanding and promoting the benefits of readily available, standards-driven marine geospatial information.

* E/C.20/2018/1.

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